

Bill: RAISED S.B. 1055

March 11, 2015

Section 1.

I support this Bill and I believe that there should be a professional educator at the State level who has knowledge and experience with the education of gifted and talented students and who is able to provide assistance to local and regional boards of education and the parents or guardians of students relating to the awareness and identification of, and the provision of services to, gifted and talented children. It is required that school districts in the State identify these students, therefore, it is important that a qualified person, with knowledge of the nature and needs of these individuals, be a designated employee at the State level.

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Section 2.

I support the intent of Section 2 of this Bill, which is to gather information about the types of programs and services being offered to high achieving students in the State and to examine and distribute information about best practices to be employed with these students.

In the field of gifted education, as in other areas of education, the type of service provided should match the student's needs, rather than a "one size fits all" perspective for program delivery models. While there are already reports in the literature about best practices for high ability students, an important focus of this Bill should be to find out about what practices are being implemented in the State, how these practices are matched to the learner, and the effectiveness of the services.

This type of information could be combined with existing research results to assist school district personnel with how to use the most current information to address the needs of their high ability learners and assist classroom teachers with the strategies they need to support the growth and development of each student in the classroom as required by Connecticut's System for Educator Evaluation (SEED).

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